

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



## II Thessalonians (Part-1, Ch.1:1-10)

Faith| Love | Patience ... is it Growing?

Is learning greater during times of Trials or Blessing?

Are you perplexed by the Justice of God?

When and How will the Justice of God be executed?

Why God cannot overlook sin?

Is God glorified in you?

# Introduction (1-2)

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Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, Acts 17:1

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**Author:** Paul

(includes co-workers, Timothy and Silas)

(Acts 18:1-5, all three present in Corinth)

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**Time:** A.D. 51 (~3-years after I Thessalonians)

**Written to:** Church in Thessalonica, planted by Paul

**Written from:** Corinth

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**Background Reading on Thessalonica Church:** Acts 16-17

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**Themes:**

(1) Encourage the persecuted church

(2) Day of the Lord and Justice of God

# Context for II Thessalonians

## Persecution of Believers in Thessalonica

Was this the great tribulation? Why must believers suffer?

Paul's response: Encouragement to persecuted saints, Clarity on Justice of God (Ch.1)

## Rumors/misunderstanding about the Day of the Lord

Paul's response: Give clarity on the Day of the Lord (Ch.2)

**Practical Exhortations on love, respect, discipline, work** (ch.3)

# Source of Comfort

- **Rapture** (I Thessalonians, Ch.4:18)
- **Second Coming of Christ** (I Thessalonians, Ch.5:11)
- **Divine Justice of Persecutors** (II Thessalonians :2:17)

# Thessalonica

Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus,  
unto the church of the  
Thessalonians in God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ (1)

**Thessalonica (Greece):** (as seen in I Thessalonians 1)

Part of Paul's second missionary Journey

Preached Jesus in **Thessalonica** (Acts 17:1-5) that lead to persecution

Facing Jewish opposition, Paul flees for **Berea** (Acts 17:10)

Jews chased him in Berea & Paul left for **Athens** (Acts 17)

Paul next went to **Corinth** (Acts 18:11, staying 18 months). Paul faced Jewish opposition in Corinth also. Paul visited Thessalonica later.

See I Thessalonians (ch.1) for brief on Timothy & Silas

# Opening Greetings

Grace unto you, and peace,  
from God our Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ (2)

## Grace + Peace

Cannot enjoy peace without first receiving grace

We need tri-fold Peace

Peace with God, Peace within, and Peace with others

Possible only through the gift of grace

# Reasons for Thanks (3-4)

Why is Paul Thankful? How does faith grow?



# Reasons for Thanks

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;  
So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure (3,4)

## 1. Growing Faith

## 2. Abounding Love

Paul's prayer answered (I Thessalonians 3:10,12 Paul desired that the church may grow in faith and love) God answers prayers!

## 3. Patient endurance and perseverance during persecution

Paul considered 1-3 as worthy of sharing with other churches.

How about us? ... are we growing, abounding & patiently enduring?

How does faith grow?

Faith begins  
at salvation ...  
Progression in  
our faith is  
important

**Little faith**

(Mathew 8:26)

(disciples in  
storm)

Wavering faith

**Great Faith**  
(Mathew 8:10)  
(Centurion)

# Growing Faith

## We grow in your faith:

By spending time in **God's Word** (**Romans 10:17**, Faith comes by hearing and hearing from the Word of God)

By spending time in **prayer** to strengthen our relationship with the Lord

By taking **small steps** of faith

By living a **life of dependence** on the Lord

By going through **trials**

We are good  
but we can be  
“better”!

Faith is Good

But Growing faith is Better!

Love is Good

But Abounding love is Better!

Paul's reason for writing:

**Exhorting a “good church” to be a “better” church**

- We can also be “better” as we apply biblical truths ... there is always room for improvement!
- Without application, there can be no transformation

# Justice of God (5-10)

Is persecution of Christians the great tribulation? God's Judgement: Why, When, Who, How? Does God delight in the death of sinners?

God is  
God of Love  
&  
God of Justice

A source of comfort for believers as there is  
much injustice and hatred in this world

# God's Judgement

**Why** must God judge (5,6)

**Who** will be punished? (7)

**When** will the punishment start? (8)

**What** will be the punishment? (9)

## Righteous Judgment

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: (5)

**Righteous judgment** of God is fair, based on truth, and cannot be changed.

**Rest & Rewards** for believers

**Punishment** for unbelievers

And these shall go away into everlasting **punishment**: but the righteous into **life eternal** (**Mathew 25:46**)

And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give **reward unto thy servants** the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest **destroy them which destroy the earth**. (**Revelation 11:18**)



## Counted Worthy

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: (5)

- Trials don't make us worthy
- Trials + our response to trials ... declares us as true believers
- Afflictions does not mean God has abandoned us ... on the contrary, it is evidence of God at work (example, Job, Joseph etc.)
- We should be worried if there are no trials in our life!
- Psalms 73 (classic Psalm on the question: why do the righteous flourish and believers suffer)

# God's Righteous Justice (Punishment, Vengeance)

Seeing it is a righteous thing  
with God to recompense  
tribulation to them that  
trouble you (6)

I the Lord love Judgement (Isaiah 61:8)

Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord (Romans 12:19)

Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense (*repay*) saith the Lord. The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:29-30)

But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons (Colossians 3:25)

Persecutors will be punished by God

God's  
Punishment  
is  
God's  
Vengeance

Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord (**Romans 12:19**)

Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense (*repay*) saith the Lord. The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (**Hebrews 10:29-30**)

For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire (**Isaiah 66:15**)

Persecutors will be punished by God

# WHEN?

When Lord Jesus will be revealed from Heaven (7)

## Glorious Revelation of the Lord

“Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” Mathew 24:30

- ❑ Returns from Heaven with his saints and mighty angles (I Thessalonians 1:10, 3:13, Mathew 24:30, Mathew 25:31) **what is the Lord doing in Heaven now?**
- ❑ His feet shall stand in the mount of olives (Zechariah 14:14)  
Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: Revelation 1:7 (Mathew 24:30, Acts 1:11)
- ❑ Every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11)

**Timing:** after great tribulation

## Who are punished? (8)

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (8)

Them that **know not** God, and **Obey not** the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Many know about God, but do not know Him personally; Many heard the gospel, but rejected the good news; ... what is the consequence?

This is life eternal, that they might **know thee** the only true God (**John 17:3**)

Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not (**John 10:28**)

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: (**Romans 1:20**)

## Who are punished? (8)

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (8)

Flaming fire could refer to judgment or glorious presence

**Isaiah 66:15** For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

**Exodus 19:18** because the Lord descended upon it in fire:

# What is the Punishment?

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (9)

## Everlasting separation (from Presence and Glory of God) & Everlasting destruction

weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mathew 8:12)

everlasting fire, everlasting punishment (Mathew 25:41, 46)

Not death ... Hell is everlasting sorrow and misery!

## NO EXIT, NO UTURN, NO BRIDGE TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE

“between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence” (Luke 16:26, Lazarus and the Rich man)

# Great white throne Judgement

Revelation  
20:11-15

<sup>11</sup> And I saw a **great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**.

<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the **lake of fire**.



**Believers** enter into the presence of the Lord

(II Corinthians 5:8,  
Philippians 1:21,23)

**Unbelievers** in Hades  
(Luke 16:22,23)

- called Sheol in OT

What happens At death?

**Does God  
delight in the  
death of  
sinners?**

# Does God delight in the death of sinners?

## Ezekiel 18:20

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. <sup>21</sup> But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

## Ezekiel 33:11

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked**; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

## II Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is **longsuffering** to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

# Christ revealed and glorified

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.  
(10)

**Mathew 24:27** “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be”

**Luke 21:27** “And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory”

**Revelation 19:11-16** <sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war ... <sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.

His glory  
revealed in us  
... glory in  
Lord's prayer  
(John 17)

Glory Follows finished work 4 have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

<sup>10</sup> And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and **I am glorified in them.**

<sup>24</sup> Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may **behold my glory**, which thou hast given me:

Our  
Glorification ...  
is in God's plan

### Romans 8:30

And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also **glorified**.

**Note on trials**  
(as seen before in I Thessalonians)

**Why do believers go through trials?**



Believers'  
**Trials** ... Part  
of our **calling**  
and path to  
blessing

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In this world, ye shall have **tribulation**  
(John 16:33)

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Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ  
Jesus shall suffer **persecution**  
(II Timothy 3:12)

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For to you it has been granted on behalf of  
Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also  
to **suffer** for His sake (Philippians 1:29)





Believers'  
Trials ... Part  
of calling and  
path to  
blessing

---

we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces **perseverance**; and perseverance, **character**; and character, **hope**

(Romans 5:3-4)

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if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also **glorified** together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us

(Romans 8: 17b, 18)

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may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, **perfect**, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.

(I Peter 5:10)



What does  
**Trials** by God  
accomplish?

**Exposes** our weaknesses and reveals the quality of our faith (Deuteronomy 8:2, I Peter 1:7)

**Purifies** us (Psalms 66:10, Isaiah 48:10, Job 23:10)

For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver (Psalms 66:10, NIV)

**Matures** us (James 1:2-5)

**Trains** us to counsel others (II Corinthians 1:4)

**Qualifies** us for Rewards (crown & glory follows the cross)